not contribute to any new problems or tensions in the region. Government closely monitor all development with a bearing on the country's security and take appropriate counter measures to safeguard the national interest.

सूरीनाम में भारतीय मूल के लोगों की दशा

4555. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र :** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि सूरीनाम में रह रहे भारतीय मूल के लोगों की स्थिति दिन-प्रति दिन बिगड़ती जा रही है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार उनकी बिगड़ती स्थिति को राजनयिक स्तर पर सुधारने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद) : (क) भारत सरकार ने इस आशय की खबरें देखी हैं कि सूरीनाम के लोग कुछ आर्थिक कठिनाइयों का सामाना कर रहे हैं। बहरहाल इस मंत्रालय को इस आशय की कोई सूचना नहीं मिली है कि केवल भारतीय मूल के लोगों की हालत बिगड़ रही है।

(ख) और (ग) भारत सरकार की यह नीति है कि दूसरे देशों के आन्तरिक मामलों में हस्तक्षेप न किया जाए। बहरहाल, जब भी अनुरोध किया गया है। भारत सरकार ने विशेष रूप से आई० टी० ई० सी० कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत सदैव वह सब सहायता दी है जो सूरीनाम की सरकार को स्वीकार्य हो।

Agricultural assistance to Burkina Faso

4556. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered to provide assistance to Burkina Faso for agricultural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Burkina Faso thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes; Sir.

(b) The Government of India have allocated Rs. 15.8 Crores for an Agricultural Development Project in Burkina Faso in response to a specific request made by that country's President during his two.day visit to India in July 1994. This grant is to be utilised for purchase of agricultural machinery and equipment from India and deputation of six Indian agricultural experts. A Project Report has already been finalised in consultation with the receipient Government and the Project is now in initial stages of actual implementation.

(c) Burkina Faso Government has received this offer with enthusiasm and gratitude. During the India.Bukina Faso Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi on 17th and 18th February, 1995, the Burkinabe side endorsed the Project prepared by the Indian side for implementation.

Indo-Sri Lankan agreements about the people of Indian Origin

4557. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of Indo-Sri Lankan agreements on the people of Indian origin:

(b) the number of persons of Indian origin who have applied for registration.

as Indian citizens so far, and of these who have been actually repatriated to India;

(c) the number of persons of Indian origin who have applied for registration as Sri Lankan citizens and of those who have been registered.

(d) the percentage of fulfilment of the Sri Lankan and Indian quotas at the end of 1994; and

(e) the number of persons of Indian origin who remain Stateless and the percentage they form of the total number of stateless persons at the time of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Under the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. High Commission of India in Colombo and Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy, have registered and granted Indian citizenship to 5,92,919 persons of Indian origin (accountable 4,20,319 plus natural increase 1,72,600) upto 31-3-95.

(b) Under 1964 and 1974 Agreements, a total number of 5,06,000 (accountable) persons of Indian Origin applied to High Commission of India in Colombo and Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy for registration and to acquire Indian citizenship. Out of this number, 4,20,319 accountable plus 1,72,600 natural increase i e. a total of 5,92,919 persons hae been registered and granted Indian citizenship upto 31-3-1995. Of these, 4,61,999 persons have been repatriated up to 31-12-94.

(c) Under the Agreements of 1964 and 1974 and the 1986 Accord. Sri Lanka Government agreed to grant Sri Lankan citizenship to 4,69.000 (accountable) persons of Indian origin. The Sri Lanka Government granted Sri Lankan citizenship to 3,37,620 (accountable 2,37,151 plus natural increase 1,00,469) till 31-12-1988. The balance 2,31,849 stateless persons of Indian origin have been absorbed as Sri Lankans under the "Grant of Citizenship to Stateless Persons (Special Provisions) Act No. 39 of 1988."

(d) The grant of Sri Lanka citizenship is linked with the grant of Indian citizenship in the ratio of 4 : 7. The figures of registration of persons of Indian origin who have acquired Sri Lankan citizenship have not been furnished by the Sri Lankan Government after 31-12-1988. Therefore, it is not possible to furnish the percentage of fulfilment of Sri Lankan and Indian quotas.

(e) At the time of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement there were 9,75,000 stateless persons of Indian origin residing in Sri Lanka. After the "Grant of Citizenship to Stateless Persons (Special Provisions) Act No. 39 of 1988" the balance has been absorbed as Sri Lankan citizens and as such there is no stateless persons of Indian origin remaining in Sri Lanka except for those stateless persons who have applied for Indian citizenship to High Commission of India in Colombo and Assistant High Commission of India in Kandy. There were as on 28-2-1995, 73,563 persons of Indian origin (accountable 70,044 plus 3519 natural increase) who have applied for registration as Indian citizens but haave not shown any interest in acquiring Indian citizenship. Their percentage is approximately 7.5 per cent of the original figure of 9.75,000.

Delay in payment of retirement dues by the Ministry of External Affairs

4558. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints of retired officials regarding the non-payment of their retirement dues and related matters, as reported in The Hindustan Times of 3rd April, 1995:

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in settling such cases in his Ministry;

(c) the number of such cases pending for more than one month, more than three months and more than six months;